

IN RECOGNITION OF ARCHBISHOP VATCHÉ HOVSEPIAN ON THE 52ND ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION AND FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the Senate's attention His Eminence Archbishop Vatché Hovsepien, on the 52nd anniversary of his ordination.

Archbishop Hovsepien is an inspirational and dynamic leader in the Armenian Church, and this milestone anniversary is a symbol of the Archbishop's 52 years of dedicated service and commitment to the Armenian people and the greater community in which he serves. Since 1996, he has served as the Archbishop of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America.

During his 50 years of service to his Church and community, His Eminence Vatché Hovsepien has been very active. The Archbishop has met with five Presidents of the United States, along with various religious leaders and political figures from all over the world, created new parishes, Armenian schools and summer camps. His Eminence Vatché Hovsepien has traveled and studied all over the world, thus allowing him to have the knowledge of many customs, traditions, cultures and languages.

The Archbishop has spoken eloquently about the Armenian Genocide and the importance that it be remembered by Armenians and people around the world.

He has addressed the California State legislature and been warmly received. He is widely known for his good works, including assistance with reconstruction in Armenia after the 1988 earthquake.

His Eminence Archbishop Vatché Hovsepien is a warm, compassionate and charismatic leader who is most deserving of the outpouring of admiration that greets him today and each day. I am honored to pay tribute to him, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Archbishop on this grand anniversary. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1036. An act to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

H.R. 1664. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for members of the uniformed services in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence and to restore the tax exempt status of death gratuity payments to members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 141. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 should be fundamentally reformed to be fairer, simpler, and less costly and to encourage economic growth, individual liberty, and investment in American jobs.

H. Con. Res. 142. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Syracuse University men's basketball team for winning the 2003 NCAA Division I men's basketball national championship.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 151) to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to sexual exploitation of children.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1036. An act to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1664. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for members of the uniformed services in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence and to restore the tax exempt status of death gratuity payments to members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 141. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 should be fundamentally reformed to be fairer, simpler, and less costly and to encourage economic growth, individual liberty, and investment in American jobs; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 142. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Syracuse University

men's basketball team for winning the 2003 NCAA Division I men's basketball national championship.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1876. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Selected Acquisition Report (SAR) which state that breaches of 15 percent or more occurred in both Program Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) and Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) of the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS)/BAT, received on April 7, 2003; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1877. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to an interagency audit of policies and procedures pertaining to the "export of technologies and technical information to countries of concern" received on March 28, 2003; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1878. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Annual Materials Plan (AMP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, received on April 1, 2003; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1879. A communication from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a statement to the U.S. Senate with respect to a transaction involving U.S. exports to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, received on April 4, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1880. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Flood Insurance Program; Standard Flood Insurance Policy 68 FR 9895 (RIN 3067-AD33)" received on April 3, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1881. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility 68 FR 9897 (Docket No.-7803)" received on April 3, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1882. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Housing Homeownership Program (RIN 2577-AC15) (FR-4504-F-02)" received on April 3, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1883. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Financial and Other Information (RIN 2550-AA25)" received on April 2, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1884. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Official Staff Commentary for Truth in Lending